

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5429

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USUN NEW YORK 524

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 2892

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS

SUBJECT: ANTI-NORTH KOREAN PRESS ARTCLE

1. "CEYLON OBSERVER", AFTERNOON DAILY OF GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED LAKE HOUSE PAPERS CARRIED SEOUL-DATELINED AUGUST 10 PTC-REUTER STORY HEADLINED "N. KOREAN CHARGE PREPOSTEROUS."

2. TEXT OF STORY IS: "THE NORTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S ALLEGATION THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS INTENSIFYING A WAR SITUATION IN KOREA IS PART OF "PREPOSTEROUS PROPAGANDA" AIMED AT FANNINGUP ATMOSPHERE AGAINST THE US AND SOUTH KOREA IN THE NON-ALINGED MOVEMENT AN OFFICIAL SPIKESMAN SAID HERE TODAY.

MR. HONG IL, THE SPIKESMAN FOR THE SOUTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS SPEAKING WHEN ASKED BY REUTER FOR HIS COMMENT ON THE PRESS CONFERENCE BY NORTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER HO DAMM IN COLOMBO YESTERDAY.

AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE THE NORTH KOREAN MINISTER ACCUSED THE US OF CREATING AN EXTREMELY TENSE SITUATION IN KOREA AND MAKING WAR PREPARATIONS UNDER COVER OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOUTHWARD THREAT FROM THE NORTH. HE SAID THERE WAS NO

THREAT TO SOUTH KOREA FROM THENORTH, BUT THERE WAS A THREAT
IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

BUT THE SOUTH DOREAN SPIKESMAN TOLD REUTER TODAY MR.
HO'S REMARKS WERE ONLY PART OF "PREPOSTEROUS NORTH KOREAN
PROPAGANDA DESIGNED TO CREATE AN ANTI-AMERICAN AND ANTI-
SOUTH KOREAN MOOD DURING THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN
COLOMBO." (PTC-REUTER) END QUOTE.

3. STRANGELY ENOUGH, NO ACCOUNT OF NORTH KOREAN FOREIGN
MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE HAS APPEARED IN LOCAL PRESS
AND WE HAVE BEEN TOLD ONE WAS INDEED HELD.
REED

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